



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE RED CROSS



IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

THE Ninth International Red Cross Conference has just closed—the first to be held outside of Europe—and if one can judge by the expressions of approval heard on every side, those who worked so faithfully to make this conference a success may well feel gratified.

Washington, fortunately, escaped the hot wave usual at this time of the year and no more appropriate setting for the meeting could have been found than the beautiful Pan-American Building, dedicated to Peace.

The meetings continued for ten days, and as French is the official language of the Red Cross, it was necessary that all papers should be printed and distributed both in French and English. This made it possible for every one, when they had learned how, to follow the proceedings without difficulty and was splendid practice for those whose French had been stored away for many years.

The nurses finally selected by the Secretary of State to act as official delegates were: Misses Maxwell, Nevins, McIsaac and Delano; but the Red Cross Nursing Service committees were well represented, for there were present also Mrs. Gretter, of Michigan; Miss Giberson, of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Tupman, of Georgia; Miss Robinson, of Illinois; Miss Stuff, of Nebraska; Miss Rommell, of Minnesota; Misses Black and Fletcher, of Virginia; Misses Gladwin and Echols, of Ohio; Miss Wilkinson, of Connecticut; and Miss Perry, of North Carolina.

Thirty-one Red Cross societies were represented, and there were altogether about 200 official delegates present.

As every phase of Red Cross work was discussed, it is difficult to select points of special interest. There was considerable discussion in regard to peace activities and there seems to be a tendency on the part of many countries beside our own to encourage them, not only on account of the humanitarian service which an organization like the Red Cross is able to render, but in order to maintain a high standard of efficiency, thus assuring better service in time of war.

It was comforting to hear that other countries beside ours have difficulty in protecting the Red Cross emblem. Stringent legislation and enforcement of laws were urged.

The Pennsylvania Board of Registration for Nurses submitted a statement and recommendation concerning the Philadelphia School for

Nurses, which claims to represent the "Order of the International Red Cross." Ida F. Giles, president of the Pennsylvania State Nurses' Association, and a member of the Examining Board, was in Washington one day in the interest of this measure. While the International Red Cross Conference would have no legal jurisdiction in a case of this kind, a resolution was adopted stating that no such organization was recognized by them.

The session on nursing service was opened by the following paper: "Training and Enrolment of Red Cross Nurses; Their Duties in War and in Disaster," by Jane A. Delano, Chairman National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service.

The Countess de Pourtales, a member of the Central Committee of Ladies of the French Red Cross, gave an interesting account of the services of their nurses in Morocco.

A report was read by Madame Panas, who has organized the nursing service in France, on the Instruction and Progress of their Dispensary Schools for Nurses. They depend upon a volunteer service, and she says of it:

"Ladies belonging to all ranks of society, moved by humanitarian and patriotic sentiments, come in numbers to our dispensary schools in order to be able to devote themselves to our soldiers and to our wounded in time of war or public disaster.

"They divide their time between their household duties and the Dispensary. They live the two-fold life of consecration to their homes and to their country. They do it with all the more love and devotion since they may some day have to assist their sons or their brothers, fallen in defense of their country."

There are 60 dispensary schools, with uniform instruction. A simple diploma is granted at the end of four months; but to receive a superior diploma, two years' instruction and sojourn at the hospital are necessary.

Papers on the relation of the Red Cross to the army and navy in time of war were read by the Surgeons-General; and the present status of anti-typhoid vaccination was presented by Major F. F. Russell, Medical Corps. During the Spanish-American war there were 20,738 cases of typhoid fever. Since the introduction of anti-typhoid vaccination in the army over 100,000 persons have been vaccinated with no untoward results. During the summer of 1911, 20,000 troops were mobilized on the Mexican border. They were in camp during the four hottest months of the year, with only two cases of typhoid fever developing, both of these ending in recovery. This is believed to be due to the compulsory anti-typhoid vaccination practiced.

It is quite impossible to give even the briefest summary of the many splendid papers read, but copies of some of them may be secured for those especially interested.

The Exposition, which was open during the entire conference, attracted much attention. A section was devoted exclusively to the nursing exhibit. This comprised various maps, charts and photographs illustrating the organization and activities of committees and enrolled nurses. Panoramic views showed graphically the three branches of nursing service. Emergency nursing had for a background a city in ruins; war nursing, an army encampment, with a hospital tent in the foreground; rural nursing was shown in a mountain region, with a visiting nurse waiting at the door of a cabin, her horse standing in the background.

Through the coöperation of the District of Columbia Red Cross Nursing Committee and the kindness of its enrolled Red Cross nurses, one was constantly in charge of the nursing section, ready to answer the many questions of a constant stream of visitors.

An emergency relief tent was set up near the exposition building, not only for use but as a model. This was in charge of an army and navy Red Cross nurse, especially assigned to duty.

Among the largest Red Cross exhibits were those from Germany, Japan, Bavaria, Netherlands, and the United States.

The German Red Cross gave an exhibit of their activities in time of peace, as well as war, showing the work of their anti-tuberculosis committees and their industrial schools. They also had many models of railway transportation trains, and an interesting collection of improvised stretchers, splints and dressings.

The Japanese exhibit was most popular, and two life-size Red Cross nurses, in hospital and field uniforms, were constantly surrounded by a group of admirers. They were, however, most circumspect nurses, for they looked neither to the right nor the left, speaking not. A nurse's basket was exhibited by Tokumatsu Noda and received a medal of honor. It consisted of a nickel-plated irrigation can with a capacity of about two quarts. The tubing, dressings and instruments were packed in the can, the cover serving as an instrument tray.

Her Gracious Majesty, The Empress of Japan, sent through the Japanese Red Cross a donation of 100,000 yen (\$50,000) to the International Red Cross, the income of which is to be used for the encouragement of relief work in time of peace.

There were many entries in the Empress Maria Feodorovna prize competition, few, we are sorry to say, submitted by nurses.

Two important prizes were awarded to members of the United

States Medical Corps, one for a folding litter, the other for a folding wash-stand. The largest prize, \$3,000.00, was given to Dr. Lesage of France, for a portable X-ray laboratory for use in connection with an automobile.

Several thousand people viewed the First Aid contest and watched with much interest the various events. This exhibition was in charge of Major Charles Lynch, Medical Corps U. S. A., and Dr. Shields. Several first aid teams made up of society girls, who have recently taken courses in first aid, competed. The team headed by Miss Oliver, daughter of the Assistant Secretary of War, was awarded first place. The mine explosion and subsequent rescue of victims was almost too realistic.

First Aid Car No. 1 and the hospital ship "Solace" were in Washington during the conference.

The President and Mrs. Taft gave a delightful garden party for the delegates and their families, and other social functions occupied spare moments.

Receptions were given to Red Cross nurses and their friends at the Walter Reed Army General Hospital, the Naval Hospital, the District of Columbia Nurses' Club, and by Mrs. Hollis Clarke, president of the Spanish-American War nurses, at the Soldiers' Home.

The Red Cross societies of the world have agreed to raise a fund to be known as the Florence Nightingale Foundation. A special committee was appointed to make recommendations concerning this fund, with Sir John Furely of the St. John Ambulance Association as chairman. Miss Boardman and Miss Delano were asked to serve on this committee.

It was agreed that a medal, accompanied by a certificate on vellum, to be called the Florence Nightingale Medal, should be instituted, and that six of such medals, to be increased to the number of twelve in the event of a great war, should be available annually; that they should be granted only to trained nurses who may have especially distinguished themselves by great and exceptional devotion to the sick and wounded in peace or war.

No country may propose more than one candidate for this medal annually. The final award is made by the International Red Cross Committee, at Geneva. The awarding of these medals to nurses will be akin to the bestowal of the Victoria Cross to British soldiers for "bravery in action" and will be the highest honor which can be paid to any nurse.

A most fitting memorial to one "who rescued from obscurity and shame to a noble profession," may this Nightingale medal prove ever an incentive to a higher and higher standard of duty among nurses.